

REMARKS

Claims 8-17 and 20-42 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 and 42 have been withdrawn from consideration and formally cancelled. Claims 8-17, 20-30, 35 and 38-40 have also been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

1. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 13, 15, 16, 20, 27, 35 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has cancelled each of the rejected claims thereby obviating the indefiniteness rejections. Reconsideration and removal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

2. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and/or §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-11, 17, 21-26, 28-30, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Andtsjo et al. (WO 97/13790). The Examiner has also rejected claims 12 and 14 as being obvious in view of Andtsjo. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and solely to expedite the receipt of a Notice of Allowance, Applicant has elected to cancel claims 8-11, 12, 14, 17, 21-26, 28-30, 39 and 40. The anticipation and obviousness rejections have therefore been rendered moot. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 31-34 and 41 are allowed. Claims 36 and 37 have been objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant has rewritten the above-

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identified claims. Applicant believes that the foregoing amendments have obviated the claim objections. Reconsideration and removal of the rejections is requested.

Favorable action and early allowance of claims 31-34, 36-37 and 41 are earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

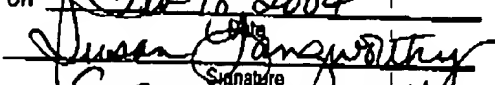
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